



REPRESENTATIVE
KIRK PEARSON



39TH DISTRICT

2001 SESSION REPORT AND QUESTIONNAIRE

January 2001

Dear Friends,

The 2001 legislative session is under way, and it may be one of the most challenging in years for lawmakers in the Washington House of Representatives.

Voters made history by once again electing an evenly divided House, made up of 49 Republicans and 49 Democrats. One of our biggest challenges will be agreeing on a two-year operating budget. The cost of simply continuing current services, combined with the cost of mandated pay-raise and education initiatives approved by voters in November, will exceed available revenues by several hundred million dollars. With so much at stake, it's critical that we turn our attention toward a more accountable and efficient government, keeping the taxpayers' needs especially in mind.

I appreciate being chosen to work on your behalf as your voice in our capitol. I've taken to Olympia an agenda that reflects many of the priorities I've heard throughout the 39th District — higher quality schools, a sustainable and responsible budget that protects the spending limit, a transportation system that gets people moving again, stable energy supplies, and getting government off the backs of hard-working people and businesses.

Representative government works best when you are involved. That's why I also have included a short survey — to get a better idea about your views of specific issues we will face this session. Please take a moment after reading my newsletter to fill out the questionnaire and return it. Your input will help me to do my best to represent you.

Also, feel free to call or write me at any time. If you are planning to come to Olympia during the legislative session, call ahead and let us know so that I can make time to meet with you. We are also inviting you to join us Feb. 6 in Olympia for "39th District Day" — a time where we can meet with constituents, and you can tour the capitol. More details are included in this newsletter.

Once again, it is an honor to serve you.

Sincerely,

Kirk Pearson
State Representative

Assistant Republican Whip

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Toll-free legislative hotline:
1-800-562-6000

House Committees:

- **Appropriations**
- **Education**
- **Natural Resources-**
Vice chair



REP. KIRK PEARSON • 39TH DISTRICT

STATE BUDGET – LAWMAKERS ASKED TO DO MORE WITH LESS

The biggest issue before us is the two-year operating budget, which already is showing a substantial deficit. The cost of continuing current services, combined with the cost of the pay-raise and education initiatives approved by voters in November, will exceed our available revenues by \$768 million. The voter-approved initiatives also exceed the legal spending limit (mandated by voters) by \$1.2 billion.



As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I will look for cost reductions in the budget without harming essential services. I will work especially hard to ensure that local resources, including police, fire and health services, are not severely affected. My overriding concern is for taxpayers, who have made it clear that government must use their money wisely.

EXPECTING STRONGER PERFORMANCE FROM OUR SCHOOLS

In recent years the Legislature has set higher standards for our schools and greater expectations from our students. In many cases, those expectations have proven fruitful, with improved test scores and performance.

It is important to provide teachers the tools necessary for them to do their jobs. That includes ensuring available dollars reach the classroom level while providing greater accountability for our students. It also means providing schools that are safe and keeping quality teachers in the classrooms.



As a member of the House Education Committee, my goal is clear: Quality schools, quality teachers and a quality education that will prepare every student to meet the demands of the 21st century. We must re-dedicate ourselves to reaching these standards, giving teachers the tools to improve learning, and giving parents greater control over their children's education by providing choice and accountability.

TRANSPORTATION – GETTING PEOPLE MOVING AGAIN

The 39th District is one of the fastest growing areas of the state. Unfortunately, the traffic congestion problem is growing just as fast. I'm particularly concerned about some of our local problem spots. SR 92 needs more safety enhancements. We have congestion problems on SR 522 and SR 9 from Lake Stevens down to Woodinville. And on the weekends, Highway 2 from Monroe to Gold Bar is stop-and-go-traffic.

That's why we need a comprehensive long-term plan to build an infrastructure capable of supporting our economy and the quality of life we expect. Our goal must be a plan that will increase capacity, relieve congestion, and get us home to our families sooner at the end of each day.



ENERGY – KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON

Snohomish County is being hit especially hard by the energy crunch as local residents face a 33 percent power bill increase. Those higher costs can be blamed not only on California, but on our state's lack of a common-sense energy strategy. Washington has not made a major commitment toward new electricity generation since the 1970s.

Sending Pacific Northwest-generated power to bail out California — in the winter, no less — is an idea as distasteful as the proposal 30 years ago to send water from our rivers to California. We need to get a handle on this crisis now.



We need a clear regulatory path that will encourage new generation facilities to be developed and tax incentives to encourage existing power plants to upgrade and produce more energy.

In the meantime, we can all do our part by shutting off lights we don't use, using more energy-efficient lighting, and taking other conservation steps.

39TH DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE QUESTIONNAIRE

Representative government works best when people actively participate. Please take a few moments to complete this survey and return it. Your responses will be important to me in better representing you when I am voting on legislation.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

1. Rank from 1 to 10 (1 being most important) the issues which are important to you.

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|
| ___ crime | ___ transportation | ___ education |
| ___ environment | ___ health care | ___ property taxes |
| ___ social services | ___ energy supplies | |
| ___ modifying the Growth Management Act | | |
| ___ Other (please specify) _____ | | |

2. Initiative 601, passed by voters in 1993, limits state government spending increases to the rate of inflation and population growth. The voter-approved initiatives currently exceed the spending limit by \$1.2 billion. Which direction should the Legislature take with the spending limit?

- ___ A. The spending limit should be vigorously defended
___ B. The spending limit should be removed
___ C. The limit should be exceeded to allow more government spending on:

☐ education ☐ health care ☐ social services ☐ all

EDUCATION

3. Different ideas have been offered about how to improve K-12 education in our state. What are your education priorities? Please rank the following in level of importance to you (1 most important, 7 least important)

- ___ A. Improve teacher training
___ B. Reduce class sizes
___ C. Raise teacher salaries
___ D. Allow school levies to pass with simple majority
___ E. Increase academic requirements for graduation
___ F. Provide housing subsidy for teachers living in high cost-of-living areas
___ G. Offer higher salary levels for teachers living in high cost-of-living areas

TRANSPORTATION

4. What is the number-one transportation problem you face on a day-to-day basis?

- ___ A. Traffic congestion
___ B. Poor road conditions
___ C. Too many accidents
___ D. Inadequate public transit
___ E. Other (please specify) _____

5. Please rank the following transportation solutions in order of importance to you (1 most important, 7 least important).

- ___ A. More roads and lanes of traffic
___ B. Reducing traffic on existing roads
___ C. Better road maintenance
___ D. Pedestrian and bike paths
___ E. Better transportation alternatives (e.g. rapid transit, expand local bus services)
___ F. Other (please specify) _____

ELECTIONS

6. What's your opinion of the state's blanket primary system, in which voters are free to pick a Republican in one race, a Democrat in another race, a third-party candidate in a third race, and so on?

- ___ A. Strongly support it. ___ B. Mildly support it.
___ C. Mildly oppose it. ___ D. Strongly oppose it.

GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS

7. The Department of Ecology this year has proposed changes to the state's Shoreline Management Act (SMA) that would restrict the use of land abutting a river, lake or other shoreline. Some people are concerned that these new restrictions take away individuals' property rights and hurt rural economic development. How do you feel?

- ___ A. Revise the SMA so that it won't hurt property owners and rural economic development
___ B. Leave the SMA changes the way they are now.

HEALTH CARE

8. How should prescription drug discounts for seniors be funded?

- ___ A. Pharmacies should fund them
___ B. The state should fund them

Do you want more information on these issues from Rep. Pearson?

If you'd like your name to be added to Rep. Pearson's mailing list for frequent updates on issues affecting the 39th District, please fill out the following information.

NAME: _____

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss ☐ Ms.

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

If you would like to be included on Rep. Pearson's e-mail list, please fill out your e-mail address:

E-MAIL: _____



Please
place
stamp
here



Rep. Kirk Pearson

P.O. Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

COME VISIT YOUR STATE CAPITOL!

Join me for 39th District Day. You'll have an opportunity to tour the Capitol building and the Temple of Justice (Supreme Court). It is also a great time to see the Legislature in session. We'll have lunch together and discuss issues important to you. Bring your lunch or pick up lunch from our on-campus cafeteria.

DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 6

TIME: 10:30 a.m. - Meet in the Capitol Rotunda. Program will finish by 1:30 p.m.

Call for reservations - (360) 786-7816. Or return this questionnaire by Feb. 2 with the following information:

_____ Yes, I would like to attend 39th District Day.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____



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AND QUESTIONNAIRE**

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